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United States of America,
State of Louisiana,
Parish & City of New-Orleans.

Be it known that on this Third day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred & Thirty Nine, & of the Independence of the United States of America, the Sixty Third, at the request of Thos. Slidell Esq. District Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Louisiana, I, Horatio Davis a Notary Public, duly commissioned & sworn in & for the said Parish & City repaired to the Branch Mint of the United States established in this City, where I found aſsembled the following persons — viz:

Thomas Slidell Esq. District Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Martin Gordon Senr. Esq.

David Bradford, Superintendent of the Branch Mint.

Edmund Forstall, Treasurer of the Branch Mint.

William P. Hort aſsayer of the Branch Mint.

James Maxwell Melter & Refiner

Rufus Tyler Coiner

Dimetry weigher

Parker.

Mr Slidell read the following letters.

Mint of the United States May 23d 1839.

Sir,

Unhappy differences, have existed

for some time, between the officers of the Branch Mint at New-Orleans, and have at length reached such a point as to affect the business of the Mint and to require the interference of the Government.

The principal parties seem to be the Superintendent and assayer on the one side, and the coiner and Melter & Refiner on the other. I send to you, enclosed, copies of parts of my correspondence, which will explain to you some of the subjects of difference but a full and satisfactory investigation of the matter can be made only on the spot.

From the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the 20th inst, you will see that I am instructed to refer this investigation to you, and to engage you officially, "to enquire fully into the qualifications and efficiency of the present Officers of the establishment and of those recommended to succeed the Melter & Refiner and Coiner in the event of their removal, and to report to me fully as to the characters of the Officers implicated, and the state of the Branch Mint generally, and its difficulties."

In making this Investigation, I think it very desirable that the affair between the melter & the Weigher should be closely inquired into, as well as the suspicious conduct of the Door keeper while employed in counting coins. It is also important that the accounts should be examined, as it is asserted

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by Mr. Maxwell that he has not had a satisfactory settlement.

Your principal information will, of course, be derived from the Officers themselves; but I will take the liberty of referring you also to Gen. Martin Gordon, who was the Commissioner for the erection of the Mint Buildings, takes great interest in its affairs, and enjoys the confidence of the Government.

You will see the importance of obtaining and communicating the desired information as early as possible.

I am, sir, with great respect,
Your faithful Servant.
R. M. Patterson
Director,

To/
Thomas Slidell, Esq.,
U. S. District Attorney,
New-Orleans

Treasury Department.
May 20. 1839.

"Sir,

I transmit enclosed a copy of a letter just received from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to which I have to call your particular attention.

As further information seems to be required to enable the department to come to a proper decision I have to request, that you will write to and employ the District Attorney at New-Orleans to enquire fully into the qualifications & efficiency of the present Officers of the establishment, and of those recommended to succeed the Melter & Refiner and Coiner in the event of their removal— And to report to you fully as to the characters of the officers implicated And the state of the Branch Mint generally, & its difficulties— I remain very resp.

"Signed" Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury"

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

Mint of the United States May 7th 1839.

Sir,

In a letter which I received yesterday from James Maxwell, Esq. the Melter & Refiner of your Mint, he gives to me a statement of an occurrence which has caused me much uneasiness. The letter of Mr. Maxwell is somewhat obscure, but the case, as I understand it may be presented as follows:

On the 16th of April last, two deposites were made at the Mint. One was of hammered dollars & French Crowns, and was melted for assay. The other was of Mexican dollars, (about two hundred in number) which it is not customary to melt, for the purpose of assay, as their quality is known from the character of the coin. The deposite must, however, as a matter of regular course have been weighed, numbered & recorded.

In a few days after, when Mr. Maxwell was receiving bullion from the weigher, he found among the assayer's reports, one of No. 98, corresponding in weight, name, date, and kind of coin, to the deposite in question, Mr. Maxwell told the weigher that he had never received this deposite, and the weigher asserted that he had. Now as the assayer declared that he had not reported on any deposite not melted, the inference was either that the Mexican dollars had been melted for assay,— which is not usual, and which was denied positively by the Melter,— or that ~~that~~ they had disappeared while in the keeping of the weigher, for it seems that they were not ~~to~~ to be found.

An investigation was made, from which it appeared that leaves had been torn out of the book of original entry and the numbers altered, and it was subsequently found that in the statement sent, of the deposite in question, to the assayer, it was numbered 100 instead of 98, and when returned the number 100 was changed, by the weigher, to 98.— This alteration of books & documents shows an unpardonable carelessness in the weigher, but I cannot see how it could serve him in any intention to commit a fraud.

The weigher still insisted that the coins had been melted for assay, yet "he offered to make up the deficiency" The Superintendent agreed with the weigher, but offered to give Mr. Maxwell an Official letter removing all censure from him. Dr Hort subsequently, by assaying the bullion on hand, became convinced that the Mexican dollars had not been melted (I suppose by not finding any bars of the Mexican standard.)

It thus appears, so far as I can understand Mr. Maxwell's statement, that about $200 worth of coins have disappeared, in the hands of a Clerk who has tampered with the books and documents entrusted to him.

Thus far the transaction presents to my view a very bad appearance, - but there comes, on the other side, the statement that the Clerk of the Weigh-room is sustained by you in his course; from which I infer that there are circumstances in the case unexplained to me, and with regard to which I beg that you will promptly & fully present your views. I would ask particularly, answers to the following questions.

1. By whom was the deposite of Mexican dollars made?
2. Was it weighed, and a receipt given for it?
3. Was the deposite duly recorded at the time, and does that record remain on the book as originally made? was the number of the deposite 98? If so, what was No. 100?
4. Is it customary with you to melt deposites of Mexican dollars for assay?
5. Does the Clerk still assert that these dollars were given to Mr. Maxwell, or to the man who melts deposites for assay? If so, does he state any circumstances attending their delivery by which the fact might be ascertained:

such as the presence of other persons &c.?

6. Did Dr. Hort, at the time, make any assay from bars of the Mexican standard, and which he could refer to the deposite in question?

7. Can any satisfactory reason be given for the removal of a leaf or leaves from the Weigh-Book, and for the alteration of the number on the blank filled up for the assayer, and returned by him?

8. At the time in question, were there any other Mexican dollars in the Treasurer's Vault?

9. When your examination was made, on the occurrence of the difficulty, were there any Mexican dollars in the Treasurer's Vault, (I mean the Vault to which the weigher has access,) which might have constituted or included the deposite in dispute?

10. What is the name of the Clerk of the Weigh-room? How long has he been in the Mint? what is the character which he bears?

I have felt it my duty to communicate to the Secretary of the Treasury the statement of Mr. Maxwell as I have given it to you, and have told him, that I would apply to you for a report on the subject. This will be looked for with great anxiety. The Mint must be kept beyond the reach of suspicion."

Very Respectfully your
Faithful Servant.
"Signed" R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/
David Bradford Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New-Orleans

Mint of the United States
May 9, 1839.

Sir,

I have this moment received a letter from Mr. Maxwell, of the 27th ult. giving me further details with regard to the transactions connected with the deposite of Mexican dollars, of the 16th of April. I do not find in this communication, any thing bearing very particularly upon the investigation requested of you in my letter of the 7th inst., unless it may be that some explanation is given as to the confusion among the numbers, and that it leaves me still in doubt whether the 200 Mexican Dollars were really missing from the Treasurer's Vault. There is, however, a circumstance stated in Mr Maxwell's letter which has excited my indignation, and to which I must pray your immediate attention. It is that a note, of which a copy is subjoined, has been sent by Mr. Dimitry (the Clerk of the Weigh-room) threatening a personal attack upon the Melter & Refiner. If Mr. Maxwell thought he had reason to suspect any one attached to the Mint it was his *duty* to make his suspicions known, and if the individual, thus suspected, has dared, while the matter was under official investigation, to threaten a resort to brute force for the maintaining of his character, I am sure you will see the propriety of dismissing him instantly from your employment.

Very Respectfully,
Your Faithful Servant,
"Signed" R. M. Patterson,
Director,

To David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint.
New-Orleans.

Copy of Mr. Dimetry's note to Mr. Maxwell referred to above.

"To Jas. Maxwell, Sir, You have accused me of fraud — The cause of your enmity towards me is the little regard I have paid to the numerous hints and suggestions on your part to subserve your vile purposes — Your conduct deserves chastisement — I shall try to administer it — Whenever & wherever I may meet, out of the precincts of the Mint, it is my firm determination to attack you. I warn you to be on your guard.

"Signed" M. D. Dimetry.

Mint of the United States
May 16th, 1839

Sir,

In a letter received this morning from Mr. Tyler, a case is stated which seems to me to require your particular attention. It exhibits the strongest circumstantial evidence that one of the Mint men, still kept in employment, has been guilty of purloining coins while engaged in counting them

This is a very grievous Offence, being not a simple breach of trust, but a felony, punishable by imprisonment at hard labor under the Act of 1835, and formerly, under the Act of 1792, incurring the penalty of death. I beg you for such information, as to this case, as may show your impressions as to the grounds of suspicion, and the reasons that induce you to allow the individual to remain in the Mint. Under my obligation of "general supervision", I feel it my duty to ask a report from you as to this matter.

Very Respectfully.
Your faithful servant
"Signed" R. M. Patterson
Director,"

To / David Bradford, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans
May 13th, 1839.

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury of the U. S.
Sir,

"I have to express to you, with deep regret, that there is great dissatisfaction manifested by those persons who make deposites of bullion for coinage in this Branch Mint, and in the public generally, at the delays and disappointments attending the operations of this institution. I have bestowed my utmost reflection on the causes, of these delays and disappointments with a scrupulous regard to the relations subsisting between the other officers and myself, and I thought proper to communicate to you on the 27th ulto. a Copy of my reply to certain inquiries made me by the Director on the 1st of last month in respect to this public sentiment of dissatisfaction at the operations of this Branch Mint, to which I would now respectfully invite your attention. Since I made you that communication other developements too numerous and which I deem unnecessary to detail, have perfectly satisfied me that the expectations of the Government and the public in the attainment of the objects for which this Branch Mint was established, will continue to be disappointed, unless the officers to whose charge is committed at this time the coining and melting and Refining departments be removed and others devoted to the public interest and the fulfilment of their official duties be substituted in their place. whatever may be the motives of these officers in producing this public dissatisfaction whether from aversion to the views of the administration of the government or otherwise, their conduct is such as to be and actually is destructive of all harmony (leaving no hope of its being restored) between them and the other officers, and fatal to the true interests of the institution. — I have therefore a painful Official duty to perform — that of reporting to you, for the decision of the president, that Rufus Tyler, coiner, and James Maxwell, Melter & Refiner, in this Branch Mint, ought to be removed.

Should further details and proofs be required on this application I am prepared promptly to furnish them.

That the public service may not suffer by delay, in case the removals applied for be made, I am advised, at this time to communicate to you the names of such persons as I would recommend for the appointments.

I therefore, in such case respectfully recommend M. P. Denny No 530 Market st. Philadelphia late foreman in the coining department in this Br. Mint, for the appointment of coiner, and Peter Edward Trastour a native of France, and a naturalized citizen of the United States for upwards of four years, of this City for the appointment of Melter & Refiner in this Branch Mint.

I name Mr. Denny with full confidence as to his skill and competency, and the circumstance of his having passed last summer in this City and consequently being acclimated is an additional motive of no light import. Edward H. Brown also late in the coining department in this Br Mint and previously, thoroughly trained in the Mint at Philadelphia is fully competent to carry on the business till the appointment might be filled satisfactorily. My knowledge of Mr. Brown is very limited; he may be fully worthy the appointment but I am far more informed as respects Mr Denny, which has induced me to name him. By the next mail I will I expect, have the honour to forward you satisfactory recommendations of the above named gentlemen.

Before concluding I would observe that Mr. Trastour is a gentleman of science and intimately acquainted with all the operations of the Mint, having had practical experience in France and Mexico and being acclimated ~~and~~ married in this City, I should consider him a great acquisitions to the institution." Very Respectfully

Your humble servant
"Signed" David Bradford.
Supt.
Mint of the United States
May 23d. 1839.

Sir,

I received yesterday, from the Secretary of the Treasury, a letter of which the Copy is subjoined. It transmitted a Copy of your letter recommending the removal of Mess Tyler and Maxwell. — Under the instructions of the Secretary I have written to the District Attorney at New-Orleans, to engage him in the investigation ordered to be made, and I beg that every facility may be afforded to him in conducting this delicate and important business. Very Respectfully

Your faithful servant
"Signed" R. M. Patterson.
Director

To/ David Bradford
Sup. Br. Mint New-Orleans

"Treasury Department
May 20th. 1839.

Sir,

I transmit enclosed a copy of a letter just received from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to which I have to call your particular Attention.

As further information seems to be required to enable the Department to come to a proper decision, I have to request, that you will write to & employ the District Attorney at N. Orleans to enquire fully into the qualifications and efficiency of the present Officers of the establishment, and of those recommended to succeed the Melter & Refiner and Coiner in the event of their removal — And to report to you fully as to the Characters of the Officers implicated and the State of the Branch Mint generally & its difficulties" I remain very Respy

"signed" Levi Woodbury
Secretary of Treasury"

"Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

U.S.B. Mint New Orleans Superintendents
Office June 1st 1839.

Sir,

I have just seen the District Attorney Thomas Slidell Esqr. at his Office at the Custom house and he requested me to notify you that he would attend at this Office on Monday evening next, at five O-clock P.M, to proceed in the investigation as ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury in his letter of the 20th. May last to the Director of which herewith you have a copy as also of the letter of the Director to me of the 23d of May last. — The District Attorney desired that you attend at the time and place aforesaid. Very Respy

"signed" David Bradford Supt.

The above is a copy of a letter I addressed and have delivered to Messrs. Tyler & Maxwell on its date

David Bradford
Supt.

Mr. Bradford being called upon submitted the following copies of letters, numbered from 1 to 5 inclusively. They were read.

U. S. B. Mint, New-Orleans, February 18th 1839.

Sir,

Your letters of the 30th ulto & 5th inst. are before me. I had heretofore avoided the unpleasant Office of informing you of the course I had deemed it my duty to persue in relation to Mr. Spofford. My own feelings of propriety prevented me from disclosing that your selection had proved so unfortunate nor could I believe that any duty required me to trouble you on the subject. To the manner of Mr. Spofford I made no objection; had he not manifested insufferable insubordination, I should have been happy to have retained him in his situation as long as he performed its duties, but when he disregarded every instruction verbal and written, which I addressed to him and set my authority utterly at defiance he left me no alternation. A sense of Public duty alone, without any regard whatever to my own feelings Compelled me to dismiss him. I confess I was deeply disappointed and pained at the conduct of this individual as I had hoped from recommendation to have found him in all respects qualified for the business of the institution.

An equally painful duty is imposed on me by your letter of the 5th inst. It seems that Mr. Maxwell has informed you by his letter of the 24th ulto. to you that "he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement. That the warrants between the Treasurer and himself have been made up from his statements alone — and not an account as yet has been opened." How far these statements are true will appear from a communication from the Treasurer in answer to my written request a copy of which is herein enclosed.

To these I will only add that the delay in making up the annual accounts between the Treasurer, the Melter & Refiner, and Coiner, was occasioned by the latter officers, who after their accounts had been rendered, adjusted, compared & approved were so tardy in closing them by signing them, that I was on the point of sending them on without their signatures and reporting their delinquency.

You enquire "Is your Treasurer an officer competent to the important trust which he holds?" I have to inform you that his accounts to the 30th June last were adjusted at the Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed copy. J. N. Barker, Comptroller, dated "December 27th 1838." And the enclosed copy of a communication from the Treasurer to me, to the accuracy of which I feel bound from intimate knowledge of the facts, to add my most unqualified assurance, will afford you authentic information, and furnishes the fullest answer to your enquiry. For my own part I am perfectly satisfied that there is no derangement in the Treasurer's office and no need of any reform. At this time he has but one Clerk, Mr. Dimetry, a gentleman fully competent, very attentive and industrious and as soon as I deem the business of the institution requires it, I shall appoint another

The only Clerks appointed by me of my own selection, Mr. Dimitry, Mr. Durel and Mr. Lassere were as highly Competent as any individuals to be found in the Union. The two last resigned in Consequence of the inadequacy of the salary. Mr. Lassere at present fills a lucrative and honorable employment in the Legislature of the State.

Permit me Sir, in the same spirit of frankness and Confidence which has induced me to answer every enquiry of yours to request that in future Copies of all letters addressed to you by any individual Containing charges against any Officer of this institution be immediately forwarded to me so that in no instance the public interest or the rights of individuals may be violated. I am truly sorry that an occasion should have taken place to render this request necessary, but your letter of the 5th inst. has satisfied me of its propriety and justice.

Very Respectfully Your
humble Servant.
(Signed) David Bradford
Supert.

To. Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director, Mint, Philadelphia.

P. S. — The original of which the above is a Copy was mailed the 19th by Express Mail

D. B.

United States Br. Mint. N. Orleans
Treasurer's Office 16 february 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a written communication from you, in which you request me to state in Writing.

1° Whether an annual Settlement of accounts has been made this year between the treasurer and Melter & Refiner?

2°– Whether the same Was satisfactory or not?

3° Whether the warrants between the Melter & Refiner and treasurer, have been made up from the statement of the former alone or from what source?

4° What is the state of the accounts in the office What ones, if any, have not yet been opened?

5° Particularly Whether the Bullion account between the Melter & Refiner and the treasurer, has been opened?

6° Generally the condition of the office?

7° That the above enquiries are to be considered as made also in relation to the accounts between the treasurer and coiner, & to answer you at the earliest convenience.

1° The annual settlements of accounts between the treasurer and Melter & Refiner was made on the 22d of January last.

2. I have no reasons to believe that said settlement Was otherwise than satisfactory as it has received the signatures of both parties.

3° I am not aware that any warrants have been ~~made~~ drawn up in reference to the business between the melter & refiner and treasurer; from the statements of the former alone: but the accounts have been compared before full settlement.

4°. There is no irregularity or confusion in the accounts in this office the only point omitted is the transfer from the journal to the ledger., Which transfer has not been made in consequence of the ruling of the ledger, not according with the Specimen received from Philadelphia, And your request that the entries should not be made before the arrival of Mr. Spofford from Philadelphia, who however Averred himself unnable to Clear the difficulty.

5°. The bullion account between the treasurer and Melter & Refiner has been opened and regularly kept, the transfers however from the journal to the ledger have not been made for the reason just stated.

6°. There is no irregularity in the accounts, or Vouchers or Books in this Office.

7°. The foregoing replies to your enquiries relative to the transaction of business between the treasurer and Melter & Refiner and the State of the Accts. are equally applicable to my transactions and accounts with the Coiner.

Respectfully
(Signed) Edm. Forstall
treas. B. Mint.

To David Bradford
Supert. B. Mint.

Copy of a letter from the Treasury
Department Washington City

Treasury department
First Comptroller's Office
December 27th. 1838.

Sir,

Your account as treasurer of the branch Mint at N. Orleans has been adjusted at the Treasury and a Balance of $22628,76. stated to be due from you to the United States

Balance acknowledged by you is $2628,76.
To which add

The following Warrants issued since the period for which your account has been rendered and therefore not credited by you but with which you stand charged on the books of the treasury.

No. 9118 dated 9 July 1838 $10,000
9447 — 25 August — „ 10,000 „ 20,000.
22628.76

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servt.
(signed) J. N. Barker
Comptroller,

Edmund Forstall
Treasurer of Branch
Mint of New-Orleans

U. S. B. Mint, New-Orleans
May 16th. 1839.

Sir,

I yesterday received your letter of the 7th. inst. in which you state that you have received a letter from James Maxwell, Esq.: the Melter & Refiner to this Branch Mint, respecting very unpleasant circumstances that have recently occurred in the Treasurer's department of this Branch Mint. Without further recapitulation I shall proceed at once to answer your interrogations.

1st By whom was the deposite of Mexican Dollars made? By Damian Casas.

2d Was it verified and a receipt given for it? Yes.

3d Was the deposite duly recorded at the time, and does that record remain on the books as originally made? Was the number of the deposite 98? If so, what was No. 100? The deposite was duly recorded and I have the original record. The original number of Ticheron deposite was 99 and of Damian Casas 100, & I refer to my answer to Intf. No. 7.

4th Is it customary with you to melt deposites of Mexican dollars for assay?

It is because the assayer decided that it was necessary, having discovered that there was an immense number of base Dollars in circulation giving titles of 550 & 660, very difficult to be detected without an assay, and because there was no regularity in the results of the assays, the titles having varied from 882 to 898; and in one instance a deposite from the Post Office of Mexican dollars was as low as 618.

5th Does the Clerk still assert that these dollars were given to Mr. Maxwell or to the man who melts the deposites for assay? If so, does he state any circumstances attending their delivery by which the fact might be ascertained, such as the presence of other persons &c? The Clerk still affirms that the dollars in question were delivered to the Melter & Refiner or the man who melts the deposites for assay, were weighed before melting, reweighed after melting, were re-delivered after assay and the entry is on the Melter & Refiners' own Book. After the most carefull and anxious examination of the painful subject, it is my deliberate opinion that the dollars in question were delivered to the Melter & Refiner both before and after the assay.

6th Did Dr. Hort at the time make any assays of bars of the Mexican standard and which he could refer to the deposite in question? He did. Herewith I send you his first letter and an extract from his second to me on this subject, in the latter of which I fully concur.

7th Can any satisfactory reason be given for the removal of a leaf or leaves from the Weigh Book and for the alteration of the number filled up for the assayer and returned by him? For some time before this unpleasant occurrence took place, we had received daily a number of small deposites, consisting for the most part of 100 Mexican Dollars; the Melter & Refiner informed me that great ex-

-pense was incurred by melting these small deposites and that it would be best to keep them until they amounted to a melt, say $2,000. He said that the deposites might be paid at once in small coins, that he could take them at the average weight of 86,50 oz. for every $100, and that the assayer could give a certificate without an assay at 896. This the assayer refused to do but proposed that the deposites should be regularly entered in the Weigh Book, the depositors paid in small coins, that when there was an amount of $2000, it should be delivered to the Melter & Refiner, and after being melted and re-weighed and assayed, the proportional weight should be determined for each depositor, entered in the weigh-book and a calculation be made from the average title. If any loss occurred that it should be covered by a wastage warrant unless covered by an equal gain in another melt. The obstinacy of the Melter & Refiner and errors in numbering in his department to which my attention was several times called by the assayer is in my opinion the cause of the confusion in the numbers of the deposites in the weigh-Book and for the tearing out a sheet, improperly I admit under any circumstances, but in this instance I am sure it was done without any evil intent or design. I fortunately have it in my possession I will further add that I was not sufficiently explicite in giving directions to the weighing Clerk.

8th. At the time in question were there any other Mexican Dollars in the Treasurer's vault? Yes.

9th. When your examination was made on the occurrence of the difficulty were there any Mexican Dollars in the Treasurer's Vault (I mean the Vault to which the weigher has access) which might have constituted the deposite in question?

This question is answered above in the affirmative, but a fact which is to be found in the assayer's second letter would seem to be full and explicit. The Melter & Refiner knew that there was an accumulation of Bullion (coins) in the Treasurer's Vault He made a calculation of the amount from his own book and the weighing book. Damien Casas' deposite, the one in question, was on his book, was recorded in the Weigh Book and its delivery to him was recorded in the weigh-Book. In view of all these facts he made his calculations of the amount of ounces not including the Casas deposite and the weight confirmed his calculations. This fact has been admitted to me by the Melter & Refiner.

10th. What is the name of the Clerk of the weigh-room? How long has he been in the Mint? What is the character that he bears? M. D. Dimitry is the Treasurer's Clerk and has been since the 9th of January last.

He is the one most concerned in this difficulty. Richard Parker is the other Clerk, I appointed him the 1st of April. He did not enter on the duties till the 18th after this difficulty had occurred. More conscientiously honest men I believe there are not to be found in this world, and this is the opinion entertained of both by the most respectable persons in this Section of the Country. I have now answered your several questions, and have to remark that notwithstanding the causes I have assigned for the Confusion in the numbering of the deposites in the weigh book and the consequent tearing out of a sheet of it I truly admit that there has been on the part of the Clerks great carelessness you observe, unpardonable Carelessness. Permit me to assign the reasons why I cannot concur in the use of the harsh term unpardonable. I am informed by a person in whom I have full confidence that in May 1838 the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner of this Branch Mint, several times in conversation, stated that they must get rid of every Southern officer, Creoles and all who could speak French that their places should be supplied from Philadelphia, and that then they could manage the Mint as they pleased. Of this determination and intention I entertain no doubt as their Conduct ever since has been such as to confirm me in this impression. The Melter & Refiner has alternately attached the assayer & Treasurer and uniformly every Clerk that I have appointed. He has witheld information when he ought to have given it and he has done every thing in his power to entrap the assayer and embarrass the operations in the Treasurer's department. Mr. Dimitry is a profound scholar and scientific man, but easily confused and has been overawed and confused by the overbearing brow-beating and dictatorial Conduct of the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner, and to them I attribute his embarrassment and all the consequent confusion and difficulties.

Mr. Parker I have known from infancy and I know him to be strictly honest and indefatigably industrious and extensively practically experienced in public business, having been for many years a deputy Clerk in the Circuit Court, Wilkinson County, Mississippi. The Conduct of the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner has been such as to disgust every person who has had any dealings or communications with them in the Mint. It is now my duty to inform you as I was engaged in doing when I received your letter that I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting their removal, from a deliberate conviction of its being my duty to make the application. Accept my thanks for your frank and proper

Course in this Matter and assurances of my highest respect.

Your Faithfull Servant.
(Signed) David Bradford.
Supt.

U. S. Br. Mint. New-Orleans
May 18th. 1839.

Hon: Levi Woodbury Secy. Treasy. of the U. S.

Sir,

I deem it my duty to call your attention to the following correspondence that has just paſsed between Meſsrs Ganahl & Co. Merchants in this City. Mr. Breedlove the Collector and the Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

New-Orleans May 14th. 1839.

Edmond Forstall Esqr. }
Treasurer Branch Mint }

Dear Sir,

We had this morning presented to us your certificates in our favour dated 24th. January last.

No 31. for Gold Bullion to the amt. of	$6.513,33
" 47 " Silver do " " " "	47,26
	$6.560,59

May we ask why the Certificates which you promised to Cash in a few Weeks from the time the deposite was made, have been refused ever since tho' repeated applications have been made for the funds?

Very Respectfully
(Signed) F. Ganahl & Co.

U. S. B. Mint Treasurer's Office
New-Orleans 16th May 1839.

Messrs Ganahl & Co.

Gentlemen,

I have Recd yours of the 14th instant and very much Regret that the Coiner has not put in my Power to Redeem the promise that I was induced ~~to~~ [illegible] by his representations to make of early payment

Respectfully
"Signed" Edmond Forstall
Tr. Br. Mint.

Collectors Office
New-Orleans May 17th 1839.

Edmond Forstall Esq.

Sir,

Some Six or Eight Months Since I deposited in the Commercial Bank Several Certificates of Deposite of Bullion And was this morning Much Surprised to be called on as endorser for the Amount with a noticed that the Bank had Called Several times and Could not get the Amount — I informed the President of the Bank that I could not pay the Amount when the Certificates ~~was~~ were not protested this he said he would have done instantly but at my request has agreed to Postpone entering a Protest until to morrow. I wish, Sir, for the Credit of the Government you will not let those certificates be protested but will immediately provide coin and take them up. — Respectfully &c.

"Signed" Jas. W. Breedlove Coll.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office May 17th 1839.

Jas. Breedlove Esq

Sir,

In reply to your favor of this Day's date I have only to express my deep regret that the Coiner has not furnished me with the Means of paying our Certificates, Complaints on this subject are increasing every day and Mr. Bradford informs me that he will immediately write to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject.

Respectfully
"Signed" Ed. Forstall
Tr. Br. Mint.

I aſsure you Sir that those two Cases serve but as an illustration of the Mortification that the Treasurer and myself have to Experience almost Every Day. When Meſsrs. Tyler & Maxwell the Coiner and the Melter & Refiner arrived here from Philadelphia they were introduced to me by Letter from Dr. Patterson the Director, as Officers to whom I might Refer for information on all occasions and in whom I might place the greatest Confidence — This induced me up to a very recent time to suppose that the delays in Coining were unavoidable I am now convinced of the Contrary and perceive that I have been deceived and that my confidence was misplaced. I have called on Mr. Breedlove and communicated to him frankly, the state of Affairs in this Branch Mint and that I had applied for the Removal of those Officers he heartily approved of what I have done and is as well as myself Convinced that unless a decided change takes place, public sentiment will soon be arrayed against this Branch Mint and I fear prove fatal to this institution.

Very Respectfully Your Humble Servt
"Signed" David Bradford.
Supt.

U. S. B. Mint of New-Orleans
May 19th 1839.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 9th inst. in which you observe "If Mr. Maxwell thought he had reason to suspect any one attached to the Mint it was his duty to make his suspicions known, and if the individual thus suspected, has dared, while the matter was under official ~~inspection~~ investigation to threaten a resort to brute force for the maintaining of his character, I am sure you will see the propriety of dismissing him immediately from your employment.

Under a view of the case which it appears you have been induced to take from the representations in Mr Maxwell's letters, I fully agree with you that the immediate dismissal of Mr. Dimitry would be proper but permit me to present what I believe to be a correct view of the case and I am satisfied you will entertain a different opinion from the one you have expressed.

In all the conversations I have had with Mr. Maxwell on this unpleasant subject, I have uniformly told him that it was my deliberate opinion that Mr. Dimitry was as honest as any man that breathes and that as far as my examination of the case had gone I was under the impression that the deposite of Damian Casas had been melted and assayed. The document I forwarded to you on the 17th inst. will afford you a knowledge of most of the facts that produced in me this impression. Under these circumstances then, and aware that Mr. Dimitry was sustained as far as his character was in question by Mr. Forstall Dr. Hort and myself, it was Mr. Maxwell who prejudged the case whilst it was under investigation and directly charged Mr. Dimitry in the Weigh-Room with fraud in the presence of Mr. Parker, Mr. Forstall Mr. Ducoing and myself, and he repeated it several times,—exciting the indignation of every one who heard him. Thus wantonly attempting to destroy the character of a gentleman for life, I assure you that no gentleman can receive such an insult in this City or any of the Southern States and maintain his character as an honest man and his rank in society without resenting it personally and promptly Mr. Dimitry was restrained at the moment by respect for the place where the circumstance occurred, and after waiting a day, giving an opportunity for the with-drawal of the insult, he addressed the note to him of which you have received a copy. And in which you will observe that the chastisement threatened was to be without the precincts of the Mint, where the distinctions between officers and Clerks do not exist.

Mr. Maxwell had Mr. Dimitry bound over to keep the peace, and Mr. Forstall our treasurer going his security in the bond, and Mr. Dimitry having no other remedy left him, has sued Mr. Maxwell for slander, and the question for fraud, will, I hope soon be determined, before an impartial judicial tribunal where officers and Clerks will stand as freemen and as equals.

Mr. Maxwell performed his duty in making known to me his suspicions, but I did not agree with him and I considered his conduct outrageous in charging Mr. Dimitry with fraud, and under the circumstances to wit: Just after I had expressed to him the impressions the investigation I had made and was still making had produced on my mind.

I was engaged in writing my opinion on this question of the Damian Casas deposit, when Mr. Maxwell came into my office and after hearing my frank and undisguised Sentiments, dared to insult me grossly by remarking emphatically that I must be convinced that he was right, and intimating that I was Sacrificing justice and thruth for the sake of Mr. Dimitry Indeed sir his conduct in the Mint has been such as to disgust every gentleman who has had any business with him and every Workman in his employment and entirely destroyed my confidence in him, and I am convinced that while he remains there will be neither peace nor harmony in this Branch Mint.

Very respectfully your
faithfull Servant.
"Signed" David Bradford
Supt

To Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint, Philadelphia.

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans.
May 26 1839.

Sir,

I received your letter of 16th inst. day before yesterday in which you mention that you had received a letter from Mr. Tyler accusing one of the men employed by me in this Branch Mint of purloining Coins. It did receive my most particular attention at the first intimation I had of the charges. You are under the impression that the accusation is supported by the strongest circumstantial evidence.

Exparte testimony often appears decisive of the character and fate of an individual. In every instance in which Messrs Tyler and Maxwell have brought charges against officers in the B. Mint or individuals whom I have employed or appointed I have been under the necessity of suffering with them.

In the case of the individual to whom you allude I am as firmly convinced of his innocence as Mr. Tyler can possibly be of his guilt. As you request me to state the reasons that induce me to allow this individual to remain in this Branch Mint I feel it my duty promptly to communicate them to you, fully recognizing your right to demand any information on any subject connected with this Branch Mint that it is in my power to give.

I appointed Mr. J. C. Bremond Porter, in this Branch Mint from a full conviction that he was fully qualified for the station, Mr. Tyler took a dislike to him at once as he has done to every Southern Man. He soon informed me that a Bricklayer named Riley, could satisfy me he was an improper character to be in the establishment.

I found from Riley that he knew nothing against Bremond as he referred to others and particularly the Captain of the Steamer Commerce. This Gentleman Captn. Mayeth called on me and stated that he had long known Brémond, had had him as second clerk on his Boat, had entrusted him with the collection of Freight Bills in this City and elsewhere to the amount of upwards of Twenty thousand Dollars, had always found him faithful and diligent and had the utmost Confidence in him. This Capt. Mayeth is now inspector of Steam Boats under appointment of the Dist. Ct. of the U. S. in this City and I find is by all his acquaintances considered a Gentleman of the highest character. Mr. Hepburn the principal Broker in this City told me he had known Brémond in Tampico where he was in a responsible situation entrusted with large sums of money and that his character was irreproachable.

It is true that in counting the small Coins delivered by Mr. Tyler to the Treasurer he (Brémond) has often reported a deficiency but others in the Treasurer's department have made the same report and so have the Banks when the small coins have been sent to them without having been counted in the Treasurer's Office. There is at least as much reason to suppose that errors in counting have been committed in the Coiner's department as in the Treasurer's and indeed I have had ample proof that Mr. Tyler is not infallible.

Deficiencies in Weight and quantity of Coins that he has delivered have more than once occurred.

I have Mr. Brémond's Bond for $2,500: Mr. Labarre, a wealthy lawyer of this City and of highest respectability, is his Security and from their having been fellow Collegians I find has offered to be his Security in the purchase of property for $30,000.

But I feel it my duty to go further into this subject and to be perfectly frank and explicit.

I have it from undoubted authority that upwards of twelve months ago Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell matured their plans to get out of Office every Southerner, Creole, and every one who could speak french and have their places supplied from Philadelphia when they said they would be able to manage the Mint as they pleased. The assayer was warned by several of the Workmen upwards of a year ago that every effort to entrap him would be made and that he must be on his guard. I received a letter from you (that of the 28th. February 1838 - and also that of the 20th June 1837) referring me to Mr. Maxwell for information in the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Durel, the Clerk, at my instance, applied to him, but could get none.

Mr. Forstall and myself then requested the Assayer, to give Mr. Durel all the assistance he could. To defeat this object, it was concerted by Messrs. T & M. that Mr. Tyler should give the Assayer sufficient employment in assaying planchets and pieces of silver to keep him out of the Treasurer's Office.

This plan was steadily followed up.

The reports of the Coiner

to me, Extracts from which I have already forwarded to you, condemn all the Machinery sent here from Philadelphia and until recently I was induced to believe his statements and attribute all the difficulties and delay and deficiency in Coinage to the defective state of the Machinery and especially the coining presses. I am however now convinced from the statements of two successive foremen Mr. Brown and Mr. P. Denney the most valuable machinists we have had in the Mint, that the true cause of delay is not to be found in the defective Machinery but in the determination of the Coiner that the Machinery sent from Philadelphia should not work, until it had all been condemned and remodelled by him. He has always manifested a bitter hostility to Mr. Peale and it was because Mr. Peale had invented or arranged the Machines that they were to be condemned. The first foreman, Washington Jackson, who was dismissed shortly after Mr. Tyler first arrived here I am informed has stated this as a fact which is confirmed by my own observation. Mr. Brown foreman after Jackson, told me about two weeks past, that Mr. Tyler observed to him "your interest is my interest and mine is yours - All the Machinery sent from Philadelphia must be condemned - This you must distinctly understand and it must be impressed upon the minds of all the Workmen. (Then he was to alter and perfect it, then he would shine)

Brown and Denny have both assured me that the Machinery and Presses were in good order, that the delay was unnecessary, the alterations of Mr. Tyler, unavailing and that after all he had to restore them to the state in which he found them before he could get them to work.

I am convinced from my own observation that the remarks of the Machinists are correct and true, and that instead of the $40,000 in dimes which he coined in 1838, he could with the Machinery furnished him easily have coined from one to two Millions.

I see no prospect of any change in the Coining department so long as this Officer is at the head of it.

I remain Your Faithful Servant
"Signed" David Bradford
Supt.

To Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Mr Slidell stated to the Gentlemen assembled that he had adopted the suggestion of the Director & had requested the attendance of Mr Gordon, now present, That he was fully impressed with the importance & delicacy of the investigation with which he was charged. That he had but a very slight & recent acquaintance with any of the gentlemen interested, and that he brought to the task an unbiased mind, manifested his intention of extending to all parties an equal opportunity of furnishing a full & fair statement of the causes of the unhappy differences subsisting between the officers of the Mint, & expressed his determination of using due diligence in collecting the information necessary to enable him to satisfy the requisitions of the department.

Mr Slidell then informed the officers that he would expect of each of them, at the next meeting, a written statement, to be presented under oath, of the causes of the difficulties existing in the institution.

The Notary was requested to furnish to the parties copies of the foregoing documents & letters.

At the request of Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell, they were allowed until Monday 10th inst to prepare their statements, because their occupations at the Mint would engross too much of their time to permit them to be ready on an earlier day.

Further proceedings were adjourned to Monday next 10th inst at 5 oclock P.M.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the minutes of the proceedings had before the Commissioners on the 3rd day of June 1839.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name & affixed the impress of my seal of office, at the City of New Orleans on this Fifth day of August 1839.

Horatio Davis

Not Pub

May 23/39